

## DIRECTIONS FOR ISSUING PUBLIC NOTICE - STANDARD MCL VIOLATION FOR TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

*Notice shall be provided as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the system learns of the bacteria MCL violation. Proof of public notice, as described below, shall be completed and sent to DES within 10 days of providing public notice.*

**A COMMUNITY water system *must always* notify consumers by mailing or directly delivering the public notice to each customer receiving a bill and to other consumers to whom water is delivered.**

**IF** other persons regularly served by the system would not normally be reached by the mailing or direct delivery methods described above, the water system shall also use *at least one* of the following notification methods.

1. Publication of the notice for 3 consecutive days in a daily newspaper of general circulation that serves the area of the water system.
2. Posting the notice in public places served by the water system. [Posted notices must remain in place for as long as the violation persists, but in no case for less than 7 days, even if the violation is resolved.]
3. Furnishing a copy of the notice to radio and television stations that broadcast in the area served by the water system.

**A NON-COMMUNITY water system shall notify consumers by posting the notice in conspicuous locations throughout the distribution system frequented by persons served by the system, or by mailing or direct delivery to each customer and consumer.** [Posted notices must remain in place for as long as the violation persists, but in no case for less than 7 days, even if the violation is resolved.] **IF** other persons regularly served by the system would not normally be reached by the posting, mailing, or direct delivery methods described above, the water system shall also publish the notice for 3 consecutive days in a daily newspaper of general circulation that serves the area of the water system.

Additional methods (*e.g.*, electronic mail, delivery of multiple copies to hospitals and schools) may be needed since the notice must be provided in a manner reasonably calculated to reach all persons served.

The language in *italics* on the reverse side must remain unchanged. ***This language is mandatory.***

### Submitting Proof of Public Notice to DES

Within **10 days** after issuing the notice, the owner of the water system shall provide proof of public notice to DES. Proof of public notice shall consist of a copy of the notice that was distributed or posted, or each of the 3 full pages of newspaper articles, **and** the following completed certification:

### CERTIFICATION

I hereby affirm that public notice has been provided to consumers in accordance with the delivery, content, and deadline requirements in NH Admin. Rule Env-Ws 351, as outlined above.

First Delivery Method Used: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Second Delivery Method Used (IF needed): \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Water System Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Water System Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Proof of public notification should be faxed to (603) 271-3490 OR mailed to:**

Bacteria Monitoring Section  
Department of Environmental Services  
Water Supply Engineering Bureau  
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Tests Show Coliform Bacteria Present in Our Drinking Water

### NOTICE OF STANDARD MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL) VIOLATION

The \_\_\_\_\_ water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. We took \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (# of samples)  
 samples for coliform bacteria during the month of \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ of those  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (# or % of samples)  
 samples showed the presence coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample (or 5% of samples for systems collecting greater than 40 routine samples per month) should test positive.

#### What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.** If we had, we would have notified you immediately. However, we are still finding coliforms in the drinking water.

#### What should I do?

**You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, please contact your health care professional.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

**Steps We Are Taking:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (describe corrective action such as hiring a consultant, investigating treatment options, etc.)

We anticipate resolving the problem within \_\_\_\_\_. For more information, please  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (estimated time frame)

contact \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (name of contact) \_\_\_\_\_ (name of system or company) \_\_\_\_\_ (telephone #)

or \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (address)

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

EPA #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_